

epilepsy, foot surgery, gallbladder surgery, gastric surgery, glaucoma, glomus tumors, glottic edema, gout, hand, heart, hernia, herpes, and hiccup. Volume V extends from Hodgkin's disease to lymphogranuloma, discussing hormones, hypertension, impotence, injury, jaundice, joint disorders, kidney diseases, larynx, legal surgery, ligatures, limbs, leprosy, cirrhosis, lung tumors, and lupus vulgaris. The reviewer regrets that he cannot recommend any of these three volumes. Each volume costs \$15, is about 500 pages, but represents such a conglomeration of disorganized material that it is of no value unless all eight volumes are simultaneously available. The tone of the books must be leveled for the general practitioner, but the information is not organized in a serviceable manner. Much of it is outdated by the time all eight volumes will have been completed, and even now sections of it are antiquated. The book would not be of value to surgeons, for it covers all specialties inadequately, is generally wanting in technical knowledge, and wastes much space in discussing most problems at student levels. Without prejudice the reviewer can honestly say the recent American books far excel this series in every respect.

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**HELPFUL HINTS TO THE DIABETIC.** By William S. Collens, B.S., M.D., Chief of the Diabetic Clinic, Chief of the Clinic for Peripheral Vascular Diseases, Associate Attending Physician, Maimonides Hospital, New York, and Louis C. Boas, A.B., M.D., Chief of the Diabetic Clinic, Associate Visiting Physician, Greenpoint Hospital, New York. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, 1949. \$3.00.

A description of this volume by Collens and Boas is well delineated by the authors in their preface:

"The purpose of this book is to assist the diabetic in the management of his condition. We have tried to supply the reader with all the practical information he needs to understand the disease from which he is suffering. This should give him the equipment necessary to cooperate intelligently with his physician.

"We have tried, in as simple terms as possible, to tell the patient what diabetes is, to provide him with practical hints and suggestions in the preparation of his diet, to teach him the proper technique in the administration of insulin, to teach him many simple laboratory procedures that he needs to know and to tell him something about the complications of this disease.

"We have tried, also, to guide the reader through the forest of misinformation to which he is continuously exposed by quacks, pseudo-scientific newspaper articles and well-meaning neighbors."

The reviewer feels that the aims expressed above have been accomplished very well indeed. The text is well written, comprehensive and clinically sound. The illustrations are numerous and excellently reproduced. Particular emphasis may be given to the 26 excellent illustrations (drawings and photographs) of the step-by-step technique of insulin administration.

Unique in the reviewer's experience with such manuals is the section devoted to a detailed expose of some of the more notorious quack remedies and treatment that have led so many patients astray to their harm or complete undoing.

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**LIMBO TOWER.** By William Lindsay Gresham. Rinehart & Company, Inc., New York. \$3.00. 1949.

This is a novel covering the events of three days in a state hospital and particularly concerning the patients, doctors, nurses and attendants on the ninth floor tuberculosis ward. The usual conglomeration of "types" are found here, the malingerer, a Negro boxer, a gambler, an evangelist, and a young, sensitive Marxist. For love interest, there is, of course, the beautiful nurse and the handsome intern. God, religion, psychoanalysis, philosophy, politics, econom-

ics, and Marxism are all expounded through the mouths of these characters. But high-sounding phrases do not make this any kind of penetrating psychological study of the interpersonal relationships of a group of people on a hospital ward for a chronic disease like tuberculosis. The characters and incidents are too stereotyped to be considered real. This novel can hardly compete with the depth and wisdom contained in Thomas Mann's "Magic Mountain," but nevertheless one can spend an enjoyable few hours reading it if one appreciates "light reading."

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**CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS BY LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS.** By John A. Kolmer, M.S., M.D., Professor of Medicine in the School of Medicine of Temple University. Second Edition. Appleton - Century - Crofts, Inc., New York. 1949.

This book is probably the best single reference of its kind. By properly correlating laboratory and bedside medicine, it unifies these two points of view which are so often erroneously considered independent of one another. A full knowledge of the contents is of inestimable value to the physician in present-day medicine.

This second edition has been heavily revised to interpret and apply the most modern technical procedures. Noteworthy is the reorganization of diagnostic concepts of liver disease. The improved immunological studies include the Rh and Hr blood factors and the anti-Rh agglutinins and blocking antibodies related to pregnancy and blood transfusions.

These revisions have been accomplished without increasing the size of the volume, which contains three sections pertaining to laboratory examinations; the clinical interpretations; the practical applications, and a few of the more common technical procedures. A listing of the diagnostic summary tables and an improved index facilitate reference.

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**MODERN PRACTICE IN ANAESTHESIA—1949.** Edited by Frankis T. Evans, M.B.B.S., Honorary Anaesthetist, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., New York, 1949. \$12.50.

This book contains a brief history of the early pioneers in anesthesia, followed by a chapter on anatomy for the anesthetist. This chapter is brief and interesting and is written for a practical application to general anesthesia rather than regional blocks. A chapter on physiology of anesthesia deals with the gas laws and physiology of respiration and the circulatory system; also the nervous system.

The chemistry of oxygen, nitrous oxide, ether, chloroform, ethyl chloride, trichlorethylene, the barbiturates and curare are presented clearly and briefly. These agents are also discussed in detail as to their use under clinical conditions.

Various regional procedures are discussed and described in general, as in endotracheal technique. Chapters on pre-operative preparation and on operative and postoperative complications and care are well presented.

Techniques for special operations such as thoracic surgery, oral surgery, bronchoscopy, neurosurgery, etc., are included and presented by various authors.

Administration of blood and blood substitutes are presented and also a chapter on the treatment of shock and administration of anesthetics to the shocked patient.

The book as a whole touches on most problems of interest to the anesthetist in a diversified anesthesia service. The various authors present their own methods of meeting various problems and the ones which in their hands give the better results. A study of this book by many of Great Britain's outstanding anesthetists should prove an excellent substitute for a visit to observe the work of the various authors in person. Every American interested in anesthesiology should find it of value.